

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-41 were previously cancelled. Claims 42, 46, 47, 49, 51, 53, 57, 59, 63, 70, 72, 74, 77, 84 and 90 are currently amended. Claims 43, 44, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64-66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 76, 78-83, 85-87, 89 and 91-98 are currently cancelled. Claims 45, 55, 61, 67 and 88 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A longitudinal former of a web-processing machine comprising:

a longitudinal web former support body;

first and second angularly converging leg areas of said support body, said first and second converging leg areas having first and second rigid, air permeable leg area support surfaces adapted to act with a web to be longitudinally folded;

a nose section of said support body and located at a convergence of said first and second converging leg areas, said nose section and having a rigid, air permeable nose support surface;

a first surface layer ~~coating~~ of a micro-porous air permeable material on said support surfaces ~~surface~~ of each of said first and second converging leg areas, said first surface layer ~~and~~ having a plurality of micro-openings of open pores of said micro-porous, air permeable material for the exit of a fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , said first surface layer ~~and~~ having a first fluid permeability per unit of area; and

a second ~~surface layer~~<sup>coating</sup> of a micro-porous, air permeable material on said support surface of said nose section, ~~said second surface layer~~ and having a plurality of micro-openings of open pores of said micro-porous material for the exit of fluid under pressure and with a mean diameter of less than 500  $\mu\text{m}$ , said second surface layer and having a second fluid permeability per unit of area, said second fluid permeability being greater than said first fluid permeability.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said pores have a mean diameter of 5 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

46. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is an open-pored sinter material.

47. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is an open-pored sinter metal.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein said former support body is

~~load bearing and encloses~~ enclosing a hollow space, said first and second layers being supported by ~~coatings being a layer on~~ said support body.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 49 ~~wherein said~~ further including a support ~~body~~ surface connected with said first and second surface layers ~~has coating~~ and having a plurality of openings adapted to supply fluid to said first and second surface layers ~~coating~~.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 51 wherein said first and second surface layers ~~have coating~~ has a thickness between 0.05 mm and 0.3 mm.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body has a plurality of passages.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body has a

wall supporting said first and second surface layers, said wall ~~coating and~~ having a wall thickness of greater than 3 mm.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body is a porous material having an air permeability greater than said micro-porous, air permeable material.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 49 wherein said support body includes a flat material including said hollow space.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 49 wherein in each of said first and second angularly converging leg areas, ~~area~~ said support body is a tube provided with passages.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-openings allow passage of 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of air per hour.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 1 bar.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable material is charged with an excess pressure of at least 4 bar.

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 further including a feed line adapted to feed fluid to said former support body, said feed line~~and~~ having an interior area of less than 100 mm<sup>2</sup>.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein said micro-openings are formed in an insert which is releasably secured to saida support body of said former.

78-83. (Cancelled)

84. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 further including a first hollow chamber adapted to supply said first and second leg areas of said support body with fluid and a second hollow chamber adapted to supply said nose section of said support body with fluid.

85-87. (Cancelled)

88. (Previously Presented) The former of claim 84 wherein a pressure in said first hollow chamber is different from a pressure in said second hollow chamber.

89. (Cancelled)

90. (Currently Amended) The former of claim 42 wherein an air exit rate in each of said first and second leg areas is between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters per m<sup>2</sup>

and an air exit rate in said nose section is between 7 and 20 standard cubic meters per m<sup>2</sup> and further wherein said nose section air exit rate is greater than each said first and second leg area air exit rate.

91-98. (Cancelled)